

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 04044 01 OF 02 111018Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 087090

R 111006Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7110

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04044

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJ: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S LUNCHEON WITH STATE
SECRETARY HERMES: NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, AID
TO EGYPT AND ZAIRE, ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH
THE SOVIET UNION, AND NUCLEAR REACTOR SALES TO
EGYPT.

1. THIS AFTERNOON AT LUNCH, UNDER SECRETARY
ROBINSON DISCUSSED A VARIETY OF TOPICS WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY HERMES. INITIAL DISCUSSIONS
CENTERED AROUND THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION, UNCTAD IV, AND UNITED STATES
COMMODITY POLICY. HERMES EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN
THAT WE NEEDED SOME NEW INITIATIVE, PARTICULARLY
IN THE COMMODITY AREA IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM
IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE THOUGHT THAT
COPPER MADE AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR SOME KIND
OF COMMODITY AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF ITS
IMPORTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE, TWO COUNTRIES WHICH
ARE IN SERIOUS NEED OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
SUPPORT. HERMES WAS, HOWEVER, BEARISH ON ZAIRE
ITSELF AND WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ZAIRE'S
PERFORMANCE DURING THE ANGOLA CRISIS.

2. THE GERMANS CLEARLY HAVE THE SAME VIEW OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 04044 01 OF 02 111018Z

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

THAT I HOLD. THIS CONFERENCE IS A MUCH BETTER FORUM THAN UNCTAD OR THE UNITED NATIONS FOR CONDUCTING SERIOUS BUSINESS. THE FOUR COMMISSIONS HAVE LIMITED MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATE ON THE RULE OF CONSENSUS RATHER THAN MAJORITY VOTE. THE GERMANS ARE SUPPORTERS OF ANY ATTEMPTS WE WOULD MAKE TO TAKE THE CONFERENCE SERIOUSLY AND ACHIEVE A RECORD OF SUCCESS.

3. HERMES SUGGESTED THAT THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS THEY COME PRIOR TO THE UNCTAD IV CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI. HE FELT THAT WE NEEDED TO MAKE LIMITED, BUT UNDENIABLE PROGRESS IN THESE NEXT TWO MEETINGS IN ORDER TO PREVENT UNCTAD IV FROM BEING A POLITICAL DISASTER.

4. HERMES WAS VERY NEGATIVE ON THE POTENTIAL FOR GERMAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. HE SAID THAT LAST YEAR THE GERMANS MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER A PACKAGE OF DM 130 MILLION. THEIR ABILITY TO PUT THIS PACKAGE TOGETHER, HOWEVER, WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS WOULD ALSO MAKE SUITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS. THAT DID NOT HAPPEN. I WILL SEE SCHMIDT LATER TODAY TO SEE IF I CAN EVOKE A MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 04044 02 OF 02 111023Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 087149

R 111006Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7111

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04044

EXDIS

5. HERMES STRONGLY MADE THE POINT THAT SADAT NEEDED PROGRESS ON THE ISRAELI ISSUE. IF HE CAN DEMONSTRATE SUCH PROGRESS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE OTHER ARAB NATIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED. LACK OF PROGRESS WILL CAUSE THE ARAB FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO WITHER AWAY AND SADAT TO BECOME INCREASINGLY ISOLATED POLITICALLY.

6. HERMES SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS FOR SALES OF NUCLEAR REACTORS. IT WAS HERMES'S IMPRESSION THAT OUR NEGOTIATIONS HAD FALLEN THROUGH WITH RESPECT TO THE EGYPTIANS BECAUSE OF ISRAELI REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS AND TERMS THAT WE LAID DOWN FOR SALE OF A REACTOR TO THEM. HERMES ASKED ESPECIALLY FOR A STATUS REPORT ON OUR NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE SADAT VISIT. UP TO NOW, GERMANS HAD AVOIDED COMMITMENT ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL U.S. MADE ITS POSITION CLEAR. SINCE SADAT IS SCHEDULED TO SEE BIBLIS REACTOR (WHICH IS WHAT EGYPTIANS WANT) DURING HIS COMING VISIT, HERMES WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE STATUS ON OUR SIDE. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE FRG IS FISHING FOR ITS OWN COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, I PROMISED THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE HERMES WITH ANY POSSIBLE INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS AND PROGRESS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. (S/S PLEASE ASSIGN ACTION ON THIS).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 04044 02 OF 02 111023Z

7. HERMES EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE ATTENUATING. HE CITED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING UNTIL NEXT FALL, REPORTS THAT THE OIL-GRAIN TALKS WERE FALTERING, AND THAT LITTLE PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN THE FIELD OF U.S.-SOVIET TECHNICAL COOPERATION. I REPLIED THAT THE SLOW-DOWN IN THE PROGRESS OF SOME OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS WAS BASED ON THE NEED TO REASSESS OUR POLICY TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION IN LIGHT OF RECENT SOVIET ADVENTURISM, PARTICULARLY IN ANGOLA.
HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN04044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760092-0258
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760373/aaaac1xe.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S LUNCHEON WITH STATE SECRETARY HERMES: NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, AID
TAGS: PFOR, GE, US, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006